Bank secrecy laws of Switzerland

2992. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that the Supreme Court of Switzerland has relaxed its strict bank secrecy laws Government propose to move the Switzerland Supreme Court to further relax its strict bank secrecy laws to enable India to get the names of the Indian Nationals/ Citizens who have bank accounts in Swiss Banks;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. If the above conditions are satisfied, Swiss authorities would entertain requests for assistance in criminal matters under the provisions of IMAC and suitable proceedings could be initiated in Swiss courts for obtaining the requisite information from the concerned banks.

Government is initiating steps to enter into a treaty for mutual assistance in criminal matters with Swiss authorities, and pending conclusion of such a treaty/agreement entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indians having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally.

Smuggled goods seized at airports

2993. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total value of smuggled goods seized at Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta airports during last year, and in the first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) what was the number of persons apprehended in this connection and how many of them have been convicted; and

(c) what are the details of the disposal of the seized goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The total value of contraband goods seized at Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta airports during the financial year 1986-87 and April-June, 1987 and the number of persons arrested are furnished below:—

	April, 1986 to March, 1987.	April-June, 1987
Total value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)	29.81	6.80
Number of persons arrested.	591	167

The statistics pertaining to the number of persons convicted in connection with smuggling activities at the airports are not maintained separately. However, the total number of persons convicted in connection with smuggling activities within the jurisdiction of Collectorates of Customs at Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta, including the persons convicted in connection with smuggling activities at the airports during